

REMARKS

Summary Of The Office Action & Formalities

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant is amending claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9, and adding new claims 10-13. No new matter is added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim to foreign priority and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document was received.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for initialing the references listed on form PTO/SB/08 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 24, 2003.

Applicant is replacing the original abstract with a new abstract to address the Examiner's objection.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reason set forth at pages 2-3 of the Office Action. Applicant is amending the claims to overcome this rejection.

The prior art rejections are summarized as follows:

1. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Arnold et al. (USP 5,947,340).

Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

1. Claims 1-9 In View Of Arnold et al. (USP 5,947,340).

In rejecting claims 1-9 in view of Arnold et al. (USP 5,947,340), the grounds of rejection state:

Arnold et al. disclose a manually actuated fluid dispenser pump comprising a pump body (120, 220, 320), a piston (130, 230,

330) mounted to slide in leaktight manner in said pump body between a rest position and an actuating position, an actuating rod (126, 226, 326) connected integrally to said piston, and a ferrule (156, 256, 356) fixed to the top edge of the pump body, to define the rest position for said piston, said actuating rod being mounted to slide in said ferrule, said pump being characterized in that the ferrule is provided with at least one internal sealing lip (inner part of 156, 164, or the inner part of 356 with 364) co-operating in leaktight manner with said actuating rod; said at least one sealing lip extends over the entire periphery of said ferrule; said at least one sealing lip is made integrally with said ferrule; said at least one sealing lip is flexible so that leaktightness is guaranteed between itself and said actuating rod, even when the actuating force exerted on the actuating rod is not exactly axial; said sealing lip of the ferrule centers and/or guides the actuating rod in said ferrule and/or said pump body; said ferrule is made integrally with a fixing ring organized to fix said pump to a fluid reservoir; said ferrule is made of a single material (in the embodiments of Figs. 3-5); and said ferrule is made of a plurality of materials (in the embodiment of Fig. 6).

Office Action at pages 2-3. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 1 covers a manually actuated fluid dispenser pump comprising a ferrule fixed to the top edge of a pump body, the ferrule defining the rest position for the piston mounted in the pump body and being provided with at least one internal sealing lip cooperating in leaktight manner with an actuating rod cooperating with the piston.

Document Arnold et al., on the other hand, discloses a pump having a pump body whose top edge is secured to a closure (150, 250, 350) fastened to the neck of a container (120, 220, 320). A piston (130, 230, 330) is slidably mounted in the pump body, with the piston displaceable between a rest position shown in figure 3 (“fully upright position”) and an actuating position shown in figure 4. As it can clearly be seen in the figures, in the rest position, the piston

does not abut against the closure 150, 250, 350. Indeed, an annular chamber 133 physically separates the closure from the piston and thus creates a gap between these two members.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims.

New Claims

For additional claim coverage merited by the scope of the invention, Applicant is adding new claims 10-13. Claims 10 and 11 are allowable at least by reason of their respective dependencies. Claims 12 and 13 are allowable, since the art does not teach or suggest a ferrule that is a stop preventing further upward axially movement of the piston when the piston is in the rest position in combination with the remaining features recited in claim 12.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/625,549

Attorney Docket No.: Q71800

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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